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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES FEED THE FUTURE INITIATIVE

DUSHANBE — Ambassador Ken Gross and Erin Elizabeth McKee, Regional Mission Director for USAID/Central Asian Republics, were joined by Deputy Prime Minister Murodali Alimardon for the official launch of the United States' Feed the Future Initiative.

Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's initiative to improve food security in 20 target countries worldwide. Over the next five years, Feed the Future will work in 12 districts in western Khatlon to assist households and small commercial farms to increase income and production of food for home consumption. The Initiative also will support improved nutrition and health. USAID's main Feed the Future projects in Tajikistan are the Family Farming Program, Productive Agriculture, and Land Reform. Complementary U.S. Government programs include USAID activities on maternal and child health, safe drinking water, local governance, and civil society, the State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement's support for community policing, and the Department of Defense's deworming program.

The goal of Feed the Future Tajikistan is to sustainably raise the income of over 250,000 people in selected districts in Khatlon Province and improve nutrition knowledge, food availability, and household utilization of food. Feed the Future Tajikistan will foster healthy behaviors and practices to address both the immediate and underlying causes of undernutrition and improve maternal and child health. In targeted districts, the program aims to reduce the poverty rate from 54% to 45% over five years and the rate of stunting for children under 5 from 37% to 26% in the same period.

In his speech, Ambassador Gross stated, "Too many people in Tajikistan are hungry on a regular basis. The U.S. Government is partnering with you to help ensure that Tajikistan's children will grow up well fed and healthy. Together we can help improve agricultural productivity for everyone's benefit."

USAID Family Farming, Productive Agriculture, and Land Reform projects are three of the many development projects supported in Tajikistan by the United States Agency for International Development.

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